

Message Text

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SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY NEW EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS

1.ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW EC COMMISSION
JANUARY 6, COMMISSION PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS DELIVERED
THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

2.BEGIN QUOTE:THE NEW COMMISSION,OVER WHICH I HAVE THE HONOUR
TO PRESIDE,IS THE HEIR TO A TRADITION OF PRACTICAL IDEALISM,
AND ACHIEVEMENT,WHICH GOES BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF JEAN MON-
NET'SPRESIDENCY OF THE COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY A QUARTER OF
A CENTURY AGO.THAT TRADITION HAS BEEN CARRIED FORWARD WITH
SKILL AND DEDICATION BY THE OUTGOING COMMISSION,LED
BY MY IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR,PRESIDENT ORTOLI.I THEREFORE
BEGIN MY OWN TERM OF OFFICE BY PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE TENACITY
AND COURAGE WITH WHICH HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE DEFENDED THE
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STILL HALF-BUILT CITADEL OF EUROPEAN UNITY
THROUGHOUT A PERIOD OF EXCEPTIONAL ECONOMIC STRAIN AND IFFI-
CULTIES.MY FELLOW COMMISSIONERS AND I ARE RESOLVED TO
FOLLOW THE SAME TRADITION IN FACING THE PROBLEMS OF THE
NEXT FOUR YEARS.

3.THE PIONEERS OF EUROPEAN UNITY KNEW THAT THEY
HAD TO GRAFT THEIR IDEAL INTO THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE
PEOPLE OF EUROPE - AND THAT THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE
BY GIVING IT PRACTICAL CONTENT IN EVERYDAY TERMS. THAT
IS ALSO OUR TASK.OUR AIM,OUR CONSTANT AIM,MUST BE
TO PRESERVE THE LOT OF THE ORDINARY CITIZEN THROUGHOUT
THE COMMUNITY,AND TO MAKE HIM OR HER FEEL THAT EUROPE
IS BECOMING A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE.

4.WE MUST COMBAT THE GROWING DIVERGENCIES IN THE
ECONOMIES OF OUR MEMBER STATES - NOT OF COURSE BY
WEAKENING THE STRONG,BUT BY STRENGTHENNING
THE WEAK. ABOVE ALL,WE MUST REMEMBER OUR UNDERLYING AND CON-
TINUING PURPOSES.OUR MEANS ARE AND HAVE BEEN ECONOMIC.
OUR END REMAINS,AS IT WAS FROM THE BEGINNING,POLITICAL.
IT IS TO MAKE A EUROPEAN UNION,COMMITTED TO THE
PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE,OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM,OF
INTELLECTUAL INTEGRITY AND SOCIAL FAIRNESS.THIS IS THE
TIME - EVEN IN THE TEETH OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH CERTAINLY
EXIST, - FOR A NEW AND DECISIVE ADVANCE.
END QUOTE.
HINTON

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NNN

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